

Notice of Allowability

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/532,783	BUCK ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jermaine Jenkins	2855

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to preliminary amendment filed on 4/25/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 13-22.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 04252005
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 13-22 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not disclose or suggest a method for checking at least three sensors which detect a measured quantity in an area of an internal combustion engine by performing the check in one of a steady-state operation, at a standstill, and after a cold start of the internal combustion engine and detecting the steady-state operation or the standstill or the cold start of the internal combustion engine based on a comparison between a sensor signal of at least one selected sensor having a slow rate of change and a sensor signal of a sensor to be checked.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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- U.S. Patent 6,952,953 (Plote et al) – Method and Device for Monitoring A Sensor
- U.S. Patent 6,145,490 (Heidenfelder et al) – Method for Operating a Direct-Injection Internal Combustion Engine During Starting
- U.S. Patent 6,065,446 (Engl et al) – Method for Controlling an Internal Combustion Engine
- U.S. Patent 6,032,519 (Ishii et al) – Throttle Opening Degree Detection Apparatus
- U.S. Patent 5,928,303 (Sakai) – Diagnostic System for Diagnosing Deterioration of Heated Type Oxygen Sensor for Internal Combustion Engines
- U.S. Patent 5,906,184 (Maruyama et al) – Fault Deciding System for Idle Revolution Controlling Unit
- U.S. Patent 5,033,290 (Seki et al) – Method of Detecting Failure of a Valve Timing Changeover Control System of an Internal Combustion Engine
- U.S. Patent 5,003,816 (Furuyama) – Engine Idling Control Apparatus
- U.S. Patent 4,416,149 (Kitamura et al) – Method and Device for Detecting Engine Idling

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jermaine Jenkins whose telephone number is 571-272-2179. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9am-530pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jermaine Jenkins
A.U. 2855



EDWARD LEFKOWITZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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